

(Clean copy of amended claims)

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1. (Twice amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:

an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and

an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an upper surface of the slide board in a substantially parallel and spaced relationship via a connecting member made of substantially non-compressible material; and

the connecting member retains the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially parallel and spaced relationship during use of the snowboard.

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3. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the step board is appreciably greater in both length and width than the slide board.

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8. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 7, wherein the connecting members are tubular in shape.

Best prior art
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9. (Amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:

an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and

an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an upper surface of the slide board via a connecting mechanism made of substantially non-compressible material such that the slide and step boards remain in a fixed, substantially parallel and spaced relationship during use of the snowboard.

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14. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 9, wherein the step board is appreciably greater in both length and width than the slide board.

(New claims)

15. (New) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting member maintains a substantially fixed height during use of the snowboard.

16. (New) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the snowboard includes at least two of the connecting members spaced laterally apart from each other.

17. (New) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the slide and step boards are connected via the connecting member so as to substantially prohibit relative pivoting between the boards.

18. (New) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof; and
a connecting mechanism made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board so as to substantially prohibit relative pivoting between the boards during use of the snowboard.

19. (New) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, the step board being appreciably greater in both length and width than the slide board; and
a connecting mechanism made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board to allow a substantially increased leverage for the user in controlling the slide board.

20. (New) A snowboard according to claim 19, wherein the connecting member retains the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially parallel and spaced relationship during use of the snowboard.